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DISSEM 5058/66

12 OCT 1966

AD M-10.2

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : International Intelligence Conferences

1. This memorandum presents some background information on recurring international intelligence conferences attended by personnel of this Directorate, assesses the costs and benefits involved, and recommends appropriate action in paragraph 7.

2. Personnel in the Directorate of Intelligence have for some time participated in several of the recurring international intelligence conferences [REDACTED]

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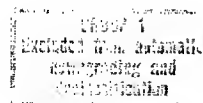
3. These conferences consume a significant amount of time of our better analysts and supervisors, as well as a goodly portion of our foreign travel funds. For example, personnel of this Directorate and the Office of National Estimates spent more than 425 man-days annually in attending, preparing for, and reporting on 24 of these meetings during the last two years. (TAB A presents a list of the conferences involved and the detail behind these data.) These figures do not include the time devoted to the preparation and discussions involved in the annual [REDACTED]

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exercise, [REDACTED] and similar agreed international papers. Nor do these data include time absorbed by numerous informal and non-recurring international intelligence meetings. Furthermore, there are additional conferences in which this Directorate does not participate.

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4. Generally, these conferences are of far greater benefit to the other countries than the US. Nevertheless, the formal papers and informal discussions [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] afford our analysts the opportunity for useful exchanges of views. Occasionally, the

[REDACTED] participants provide us with unique insights and bits of information that are very valuable. They also provide our analysts with opportunities for visits to foreign technical installations, area familiarization, and a break from the routine work at Headquarters. These meetings, like the impersonal exchange of intelligence reports and liaison arrangements, offer the US a means for transmitting intelligence which can influence the foreign or military policies of other countries or can explain the basis for US policies and actions.

5. The question is not whether these conferences are of value; rather the question is whether the benefits are worth the time of better analysts and supervisors. My evaluation of the benefits derived by this Directorate from each of the conferences is presented in TAB B together with my recommendations for changes in frequency and attendance. In general, it is my judgment that most of the conferences are held too frequently and there are too many attendees. Rather than have the conferences scheduled on a periodic basis, I believe that it would be more appropriate to have most of them arranged individually as the need arises.

6. Because most of these conferences are sponsored by DIA, USIB committees, or other components of the intelligence community and involve the initiative of other governments, it would be inappropriate for me to curtail the participation of this Directorate unilaterally. New arrangements for these conferences require the full cooperation of all the pertinent components of the intelligence community. DIA is currently in the process of re-evaluating its participation in these conferences. Other components of CIA and the community should also undertake such an evaluation.

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7. On the basis of these considerations, I recommend that:

- a. All pertinent components of the intelligence community be instructed to re-evaluate the benefits and general costs involved in these recurring international intelligence conferences;
- b. A US position on this matter be developed, preferably through the USIB mechanism;
- c. When this is completed, the other governments involved be approached to arrange appropriate procedures for controlling these conferences.

8. I am prepared to act as executive agent for you on this matter.

/s/ R. J. Smith

R. J. SMITH
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachments
As stated

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